

BUCKHORN WESTON & KINGTON MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on **MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2011** at **7.30pm**
in **KINGTON MAGNA VILLAGE HALL**

073/11	<p>Present: Parish Councillors Rear Admiral John Bellamy (JB), Mr Robert (Bob) Dolan (BD), Mr John Havill (JH), Mr Graham Hinks (GH), Mr Anthony Jenner (AJ), Mrs Anne Ledgerwood (AL) (Chair), Mr Nigel Osborne (NO), Mr Steve Scott (SS)</p>	Action
	<p>In attendance: District Councillor: None County Councillor: Mr Andrew Cattaway Police: None Internal Auditor: Mr Michael Ross Members of the Public: 20+ Parish Clerk: Mrs Clare Ratcliffe</p>	
	<p>Apologies: Mr Kevin Aldred (KA), Mr Rupert Dyke (RD)</p>	
074/11	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None.</p>	
075/11	<p>County Councillor's Report</p> <p>The government settlement has been received. Dorset has been well treated against other councils. There is a 23% reduction on the previous year's funding. An average budget cut of 8% from all departments with some being cut by 11%. Adult and social care has been cut by 7.5%. All cuts are subject to final approval, which will be finalised in February. There is a desire not to reduce service levels but to carry out restructuring. For example, Roads and Highways will apply for a capital loan so that good quality repairs can be made which will last longer. The loan will be paid for against savings made in future years. Some libraries and day centres will close. There will be a full consultation before a library is closed.</p>	
076/11	<p>District Councillor's Report</p> <p>None.</p>	
077/11	<p>Public Session</p> <p>Parishioners wanted to know what savings were made by not gritting the roads. Why were the hills not gritted? If there had been any savings then money should be given back to parishioners for the purchase of grit bins. Many people had experienced difficult driving conditions in the villages. The school bus did not run. Wasn't it the county council's responsibility to make sure children could get to school? Councillors also voiced their disapproval over the poor gritting service. One councillor suggested that there was time and grit available to have carried out a much better gritting service. AC replied that he did not have any figures for the savings made by not gritting roads; they were probably not available. He referred to the Winter Highways leaflet which explained gritting procedures and routes. The leaflet had been circulated to town and parishes councils. A councillor was angry that past and current County Councillors had not lobbied central government more regarding the amount of funding Dorset received from central government. Dorset has consistently been one of the lowest funded county councils. This has contributed to the current reduction in services. AC was unable to comment. AC had spoken to Jon Munslow, Head of Winter Services but was unable to</p>	

	<p>comment on some of the gritting questions raised in the public session. It was evident that councillors and parishioners were unhappy with the current Community Link gritting programme. The route had been changed from last year without any consultation with the Parish Council even though a request had been made.</p> <p>Action: AC said would consult again with DCC.</p> <p>Alma Floyd said that a street party was being planned in Kington Magna to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Could she apply for a grant from the Parish Council? JB indicated that a grant could be applied for c.£25. A written request would be required.</p>	AC
078/11	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (08 Nov 2010)	
	<p>It was proposed and RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting were signed and agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: AL. Seconded: BD. Agreed unanimously.</p>	
079/11	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes	
	<p>Item 059/10: A letter had been sent to Glenville Road Post Office who operates the mobile post office. Due to staff shortages a request will have to made to Post Office Counters Ltd, tel 08457 223344. The Clerk was told that is was unlikely that the mobile service will be extended to include Kington Magna as there had not been a Post Office closure in Kington. JH said that a request to include Kington Magna had been made originally but had been ignored.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to continue with enquiries.</p>	Clerk
080/11	Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting (06 Dec 2010)	
	<p>It was proposed and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extra-Ordinary meeting were signed and agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: AL. Seconded: BD. Agreed unanimously.</p>	
081/11	Matters Arising from the Extra-Ordinary Meeting	
081/11/01	<p>A grit bin was purchased from Glasdon in Oct 2008 at £160 plus VAT. Glasdon supply many local authorities. The bins are strong and well made.</p> <p>At the Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in Dec 2010 it was decided to purchase an additional 12 no grit bins preferably the same colour and capacity. The weather was particularly severe leading up to Christmas and a decision to purchase bins was made fairly quickly. The Clerk looked at three suppliers of grit bins: Vitac could supply a bin for £99 ex VAT but this was only for 10 cft, smaller than required. Mole Valley at Frome could supply a 14 cft grit bin at £150 ex VAT. Glasdon offered a discount which brought the cost of each bin down from £167.20 to £153.27. It was decided to opt for Glasdon as we knew the quality of the product. The locations of the bins were agreed with DCC and installed by local volunteers. DCC supply the grit. A big thank you the volunteers who helped with this.</p> <p>It was proposed and RESOLVED to divide the cost of the bins equally between the two parishes. It was noted that no formal competitive tendering procedure had taken place due to the requirement to purchase the bins quickly but that councillors were happy with the decisions made.</p> <p>Proposed: JB. Seconded: AL. Agreed: 7 agreed and 1 abstention.</p>	
081/11/02	<p>A letter was sent to Jon Munslow, Head of Winter Services. on 8 December requesting a response by 10 January. No reply received. Andrew Cattaway was sent a copy of the letter and requested to attend tonight's meeting.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to chase a reply from Jon Munslow</p>	Clerk
082/11	Chair's Report	
	<p>A lot of time and effort has gone into providing the parishes with grit bins. An Extra-ordinary Meeting was held in December, there has been liaison with DCC on the locations of grit bins and installation by volunteers. Thanks to Kevin Aldred, Rupert Dyke and Graham Hinks and others. These bins can be re-located (subject to DCC approval) if they are not in the most suitable places.</p> <p>Residents in Buckhorn Weston had asked about whether the Parish Council had any emergency planning strategies in the event of severe weather. This may be</p>	

	<p>something to discuss in the near future.</p> <p>There was an incident next to the Stapleton Arms when a delivery lady collapsed. The air ambulance was called and landed on the Village Green. The lady recovered enough to be taken to hospital in the conventional way. AL witnessed the incident and reported that the staff of the Stapleton reacted very well and between them and the co-driver of the van got the emergency services involved pretty quickly. The delivery lady has made a full recovery.</p> <p>All councillors have received a report from NALC giving a layman's version of the Localism Bill. It is worth reading; it could mean changes in the future and we need to be prepared.</p> <p>DAPTC Area North have a meeting on Thursday 20 January at Gillingham Town Council offices. If anyone would like to go, please contact AL or Clerk.</p> <p>DAPTC have organised a training event on Thursday 10 March about The Big Society. This should be attended by at least one councillor. This will feed into the Localism Bill, which though we are rural, will still have an impact.</p> <p>Finally I would like to record my thanks to Merrill Halstead for standing in when the Clerk was absent in November.</p>	
83/11	Financial Officer's Report	
83/11/01	Accounts Nov to Jan	
	<p>Total Payments: £10974.15 Total Receipts: £23274.24 Total Balance including savings and current account: £12,300.09 This does not include money to be paid in for Youth Shelter of £10,575.00, which will then be paid on receipt of a correctly addressed invoice. It does not include the payment for grit bins.</p>	
83/11/02	Draft Precept	
	<p>A draft precept was circulated at the previous meeting. The following items were discussed.</p> <p>It was proposed to include £200 for councillors travelling expenses incurred whilst on council business. It was decided not to include this in the precept.</p> <p>Kington Magna Precept It was proposed and RESOLVED to include in the precept £40 land registry fee and £100 towards the repair of kissing gates. Proposed: JB. Seconded GH. Agreed: All.</p> <p>Buckhorn Weston Precept The figures submitted for the precept were: £400 for churchyard maintenance, £300 towards the upkeep of the Village Green and £500 in reserve.</p>	
83/11/03	Revision of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations	
	<p>JB had looked at the current financial regulations and he considered that there was no need for revision at this time. The Standing Orders are still being revised.</p>	
84/11	Clerk's Report	
	<p>Thanked Councillors for the flowers she received in November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter received from DCC regarding the changes to the library services. The Clerk made enquiries about the mobile library service operating in the parishes. At the moment there will be no change but a review is scheduled for the summer and we should be notified. It appears that only a small number of people in Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna use the service. Gillingham library will remain open. • A Winter Maintenance Leaflet has been published by DCC, copies circulated. • A DAPTC circular has been copied to all councillors regarding training for next year. The big training event is The "Big Society" on 10 March. The cost for one person attending is £30 and thereafter £15 per person. It is important that all councillors receive training. • Letter from Mrs J Powis withdrawing her offer of land for use as council allotments. • Save The Vale Association: AGM on Friday 11 Feb, Arthur Morison Hall at 7pm. 	

	<p>Further details with Clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from DCC regarding the reduction of street lighting sent to all Town and Parish Council. Designated traffic routes or high crime areas will remain lit all night. Other roads, footpaths will be turned off at midnight and remain unlit until 5.20 GMT. During summertime the lights will remain lit until 1am and remain unlit until 6.30am, if it is dark. • Information on The Dorset Village of the Year Comp 2011. Entry forms with Clerk. • Get Poppy Party weekend of 10-12 June. Details of organising an event with Clerk. • Information on promoting Parish & Town Council elections: an awareness pack recommending holding a special meeting to encourage interest in the community. This made be something to consider for the next meeting. 	
085/11	Other Reports	
085/11/01	Adoption of Youth Shelter: Village Green, Buckhorn Weston	
	<p>The project began in Feb 2007 after consultation with young people from both parishes as part of the Parish Plan. There was a questionnaire sent to young people and 75% wanted a 'sheltered meeting place'. On 26 August 2008 provision of shelter was prioritised at a meeting of young people. Research on the type of shelter was undertaken. Several types were considered including wooden and brick built structures. In October 2008 BWVCT were approached about the siting of a Youth Shelter on the Village Green. In April 2009 an expression of interest was submitted to the Liveability Grant Scheme (NDDC). In May 2009 a decision was made on a moveable shelter and a Lightmain shelter with solar panel lighting was chosen. This shelter was specified on the grant proposal form including an Arts based project. On 18 April 2009 confirmation was received that a grant had been awarded in full as per the proposal form. In August 2010 there were further conversations with BWVCT about siting of shelter. On 15 December 2010 BWCT confirmed siting of the Shelter on the Village Green subject to specific conditions. On 17 December 2010 an order placed with Lightmain. On 10 January 2011 the full grant had been received by the Parish Council from Liveability in the sum of £10,575 for the purchase of the Youth Shelter. There is a contingency sum within the invoice of £600, some of which may be returned to the Parish Council to off set maintenance or similar costs. The lifting ring will be left on the shelter in case it needs to be removed in the future.</p> <p>The BWVCT have agreed to the siting of the Youth Shelter on the Village Green for a trial period of five years and subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>Any <i>Buckhorn Weston resident</i> may use the shelter, for example, to take refuge from a sudden rainstorm.</p> <p>The shelter should be painted in darkish green tones to blend into the site.</p> <p>The Parish Council will be responsible for removing the shelter if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 There is clear evidence that the shelter is attracting unsavoury elements (such as drug users). 2 It becomes clear that <i>non village</i> residents are “taking over” the site to the detriment of parishioners. 3 There is consistent evidence of vandalism including unacceptable graffiti. 4 Significant additional littering of the Village Green develops. <p>This project is for the benefit of the whole community. It was proposed and RESOLVED that the Parish Council accept these conditions with the proviso that the wording highlighted in <i>red italics</i> is changed to read “Any parishioner” in the first paragraph and “non parishioners” in item 2. It was also proposed and RESOLVED to take responsibility of the Youth Shelter with any maintenance costs to be taken from contingency funds held in the Buckhorn Weston precept.</p> <p>Proposed: JB. Seconded: BD. AGREED: 7 agreed 1 abstention.</p>	
085/11/02	Parish Burial Ground	
	<p>AL took over this project after Merrill Halstead's departure. The grant money received from NDDC has to be spent according to the application. Some of the work can only be carried out at certain times of the year. It was specified that the work should be completed by the end of December 2010, if possible. An approach was</p>	

	<p>made to NDDC about the Beech tree as it was very close to the Conservation Area. Byron Harris, NDDC Tree Officer, insisted this should be done by someone with particular qualifications. A local tree surgeon, Mr David Harness, was chosen as he is an approved tree surgeon and known by Matthew Vincent who will be used to tidy the hedges and other clearance work. Mr Harness will be applying to NDDC on behalf of the Council to carry out the tree work. The main work will now be done from 31 January onwards and should include the Beech tree work. In the meantime it was agreed to proceed with general maintenance work. An area for compost and rubbish has been agreed. Tim Cox will prepare the area for the bins to be sited. We are now seeking specialist advice on management of the grass area. The Award letter from CPEND (NDDC) specifies that a report on the work completed so far will need to be submitted in March 2011 and a final report in March 2012. Action: John Bellamy will write a report with information supplied by the Parish Burial Ground working group.</p> <p>The quotations obtained from Matthew Vincent and David Harness were scrutinised by the Parish Burial Working Group and considered a fair price for the work. There is a desire that local labour should be used for this project where possible. This work is being paid for out of non-precept monies. Although no formal competitive tendering process was undertaken all councillors were happy with the decisions made. The Parish Burial Ground Working Group is a very small group. Additional volunteers are most welcome.</p> <p>It is proposed and RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Matthew Vincent to carry out hedge work at the Parish Burial Ground, as per Quotation 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 dated 1 November at a cost of £1195.</p> <p>It is proposed and RESOLVED to accept the quotation from David Harness to carry out the following work to the Beech tree on the boundary hedge at the Parish Burial Ground: crown lift shortening secondary and tertiary branches, raising canopy over road to 5.2m and canopy over cemetery to 4m. Target prune 'stubbed' branches from previous pruning. Crown thin by up to 15%.for £295.</p> <p>Both Resolutions: Proposed: AL. Seconded: SS. Agreed: All.</p>	JB
085/11/03	War Memorial	
	<p>Ben Carver leads a group of volunteers who look after and raise funds for the war memorial in Kington Magna. He has £100 left from previous fundraising which will go towards tidying up the garden around the war memorial. The holly bush will be removed and the necessary TPO consent obtained. The Parish Council made a provision of £100 in their 2010/11 precept and has done so again for 2011/2012. This will hopefully be enough to cover the work. If there is a shortfall Mr Carver is confident he can raise the money from donations.</p> <p>It was proposed and RESOLVED to support the work which is being done by Ben Carver and his volunteers. Proposed: BD. Seconded: JB. Agreed: All.</p>	
085/11/04	Kissing Gates	
	A kissing gate requires repair. Provision for this has been made in the precept.	
085/11/05	Highways/Traffic Management Issues/PMU	
	<p>NO discussed what he had included on the PMU sheet. A member of the public interjected at this point that there should be a "unsuitable of HGV" sign near the A30 on the top road. Action: Clerk will make enquiries with DCC. <i>(Clerk made enquiries on 11 Jan. No sign will be erected as the road is a minor road and lorries are able to navigate from A30 to Quarr).</i></p>	Clerk
085/11/06	Neighbourhood Watch/Police	
	<p>Neither the Police nor Neighbourhood Watch present. A report was sent. There had been a break in overnight on 7 January to a container at the football club in Kington Magna; a petrol strimmer was stolen. Prior to Christmas on Friday 26 November, the Police and Fire Service attended a house fire in Quarr, which led to the discovery of cannabis plants being cultivated. The fire was recorded as arson. There have been at least two recent road traffic collisions at Tunnel Head. Unknown vehicles had left the road causing damage to garden walls and fences.</p>	

086/11	Matters for Consideration	
086/11/01	Land Registry	
	Kington Councillors were happy to help the Clerk with this work. All land owned by the Council is in Kington Magna. It was proposed and RESOLVED that the pathway near the Vicarage should be included. Proposed: JB. Seconded: SS. Agreed: All.	
086/11/02	Water Trough, Church Hill, Kington Magna	
	A letter was sent to Mr Elwes regarding brambles etc encroaching over the water trough. GH reported that the area will be tidied up in the better weather.	
086/11/03	Broadband: better speeds for North Dorset	
	BD had written to BT. Cumbria is acting as a pilot scheme to demonstrate the feasibility of providing fast broadband in rural areas. Action: BD will continue with his research.	BD
087/11	Planning	
087/11/01	Planning Applications considered since the last meeting:	
	10/04597/EIASS: Proposed Solar Farm: Henstridge: NO COMMENT. 2/2010/1275/PLNG: Install solar photovoltaic panel on roof of garage: Worthy Farm, Kington Magna: NO OBJECTION. 2/2010/1268/PLNG: Erect double garage: New Barn House, Buckhorn Weston: NO OBJECTION. 2/2010/1204/PLNG: Weston Fields, Quarr: Change of use of Barn B to mixed use agriculture & stabling of horses: OBJECTION = insufficient information. Information has now been sent. Councillors wish to make it a condition of planning that the barn and stabling is for private use only. Action: Clerk to notify planner accordingly. 2/2010/1133 & 1135/PLNG: Bowdens Farmhouse, Harpitts Lane, Kington Magna: Demolish pig sty. Extend and convert former cow shed to a self-contained residential annexe. Install 4 no. solar panels to garage roof. Carry out associated internal and external works. NO OBJECTION. GRANTED.	Clerk
087/11/02	Planning Determination Notices received from NDDC	
	2/2010/0518/PLNG: Conversion of existing staff flats to 4 no. guest bedrooms and the erection of a pair of semi-detached staff cottages: Stapleton Arms, Buckhorn Weston: Appeal Decision DISMISSED.	
087/11/03	Planning Applications to be considered	
	2/2010/1370/PLNG: Hope Farm, Buckhorn Weston,; Construct tennis court with 2.75m high fencing. Comments required by 26 January.	
088/11	Planning Enforcement Issues	
	None.	
089/11	Date of Next Meeting	
	The date of the next meeting will be on Monday 28 March at Kington Magna Village Hall . The hall was not available at Buckhorn Weston. The next two meetings after March will be held at Buckhorn Weston. Dates to be decided. A pattern of the fourth Monday in each month will tried to be followed. The meeting closed at 9.55pm.	
	These minutes are signed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. Signed: Chairman Dated:28 March 2011	